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Loneliness (Cricket)

[image]

A/N: Thankyou all for stumbling across this story! I hope you enjoy it!

Please remember: This was written after the events of Book 11, way before Book 12 was released. :)

Cricket leant against Blue's cocoon, craving it's warmth and comfortable glow. She didn't know how long she had been alone in this cave. Well... she wasn't exactly alone. There were bats and spiders if that counted. Not to mention a reading monkey used to live here. It was eerily quiet down in the cave. She hadn't felt so alone before... before she met Blue. Glancing at his cocoon, she had to keep telling herself that Blue would wake up soon. He was right beside her. She hoped deep down that he would *always* be by her side. *Please wake up soon Blue.*

Cricket hugged the Flamesilk cocoon tightly. She wouldn't let go until Blue emerged with incredible, magnificent wings and everything would be okay again. Except for the fact that they were wanted fugitives and he was a dangerous Flamesilk. *No no no stay positive Cricket,* she told herself firmly.

I guess the dread of loneliness has really gotten to me, she sighed. Luna and Swordtail were lost at sea and Sundew could be anywhere on this continent, most likely captured by the HiveWings she had fought off earlier so Cricket and Blue could hide. It was quite unfortunate that Blue had to go through his Metamorphosis at a time like this. Everything in Pantala was messed up and Cricket had something to do with it. She had helped a dangerous LeafWing out of Queen Wasp's control and made an enemy out of the rest of her tribe. The SilkWings didn't have a clue what was going on and her and Blue had accidentally discovered an even more dangerous, supposed-to-be-extinct tribe!

"Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a LeafWing,

Blue? I have," Cricket sighed deeply, "Or where Clearsight came from? I wonder if there are others like her? Maybe they could be really distantly related to me!" She glanced down at her specks of black scales.

Cricket wished there could've been an answer. She needed to hear his voice. Right now, she wanted Blue to tell her she was smart and that her brain was incredible even if that wasn't true. He always reassured her that she was perfect just the way she was. She loved that about him. He was such a sensitive and understanding dragon.

How was it possible for a dragon like him to be so kind. He was... everything; funny, kind, smart, adventurous, courageous. Maybe it was only in her head like most of her wildest dreams were, but Cricket knew her and the SilkWing shared a special connection.

"There is a whole new world out there. I know it," Cricket mumbled into Blue's cocoon. "We can find it, together, I'm sure we can."

Together.

Me and Blue.

That feeling when she was around him. That feeling she felt when he spoke her name. That feeling she could feel thriving in her heart whenever he only slightly touched her... it was magical!

But I shouldn't feel this way.

Me and Blue... it isn't possible. We're just friends. He said that whole heartedly.

But... he's so special and amazing.

This was the feeling Queen Wasp meant...

the feeling that was totally forbidden.

Lost in her thoughts, Cricket almost missed the *tap, tap, tap, RRRIIIIPPP* from inside the orange cocoon, as what Cricket saw as five days of excruciating pain without Blue, was just about over.

Just Like A Dream (Blue)

[image]

Blue always thought that the one thing he'd want to see when he awoke from Metamorphosis was his enormous wings and incredible silk, but when the time actually came all he wanted to see was Cricket.

His amazing friend was the last dragon he saw when he disappeared in his warm cocoon and she was the first face he saw when he emerged after five long days. Five long days of disconnection from the world. He had so many questions. Just like in Luna's case, a lot can happen in five days.

Blue burst through the flame-silk cocoon and stretched his magnificent blue-purple wings. He breathed in the fresh air of the cave and smiled down at Cricket. He missed her brilliant mind and wide smile. Really, he had only known her for what? Ten days! He felt like he had known this dragonet forever. Even though he hadn't seen her for five miserable days, it felt like he hadn't heard her incredible voice for an eternity. She gazed up at him, her eyes full of wonder and longing. Blue threw his brand new wings around her and softened up to her tight embrace.

There was no doubt in Blue's mind. He liked it. A lot.

"I missed you, so much!" Cricket cried, "You have no idea how painful these last five days have been!"

"Metamorphosis came at the worst possible time huh?" They finally pulled away as Cricket giggled softly.

She stayed here the whole time, waiting for me. She could've left me here, disappeared halfway across the ocean just like Luna did. She could've gone back home to Katydid and her family and her amazing HiveWing life, but she didn't. She stayed by my side the entire time.

Blue glanced down at his wrists. They glowed softly like the dim,

flamesilk lamp Cricket had set up in the corner of the cave. Blue didn't even care to wonder where she got it from. Everything about that little flame raidiated of warmth, love and cleverness, just like the dragon standing before him.

Blue knew very well that he shouldn't feel this way about a HiveWing like Cricket. It was illegal, against the law. It wouldn't be possible, that is if she even felt the same way.

But Blue already was a rebel. It didn't really matter if he broke one more unfair law which wouldn't matter anymore anyway once they defeated Queen Wasp.

The connection that Blue and Cricket shared couldn't be broken even by a psycho, deranged Queen Wasp.

"So what did I miss?" Blue asked, eager to get back into the action.

"I have a theory that Sundew was either captured by the HiveWings and is being questioned by Queen Wasp, or she managed to find her way back to the other LeafWings. I doubt she would leave us stranded here without some kind of backup though, not after I saved her life," Cricket explained in her fast, intelligent voice. Blue guessed that she must've had a lot of time to think about this while he was fast asleep. "Oh and about Swordtail, I'm guessing he is still somewhere on Pantala. I hope he's okay. Once the storm swept Luna out to sea, it was too late for even Swordtail to catch her."

"So, no sign of either of them?" Blue confirmed, concerned for his sister and good friend. Blue understood Cricket now, with all of her questions. He had so many. *What happened? What is Queen Wasp planning? How is my father? What about the other Flamesilks? Is Mother safe? Where are Luna and Swordtail now? What happened to Io? Did she find the Crysalis? What even are the Chrysalis?*

"I'm afraid not. I'm so sorry Blue. I wish I knew something that could help us, you know? I feel so useless down here in hiding." Cricket explained sorrowfully.

"Then let's go find something useful!" Blue exclaimed, full of energy from his five day rest.

"What do you mean 'go find something'?" Cricket asked, confused.

"I can fly now Cricket! I can actually fly with these wings!" Blue said, "But that's not the point. You said that Sundew wouldn't leave us without any backup, right?" Cricket nodded, understanding where he was going with this. "Well, let's go find some backup, together!"

Together. I love the sound of that.

Finding The LeafWings (Cricket)

[image]

Cricket couldn't stop looking at Blue once they had left the cave and were searching the area for any sign of Sundew. He was so determined in situations like this. It was either they find something or just give up. But they weren't ever going to give up. It was as simple as that. When it came to Blue's family or friends, he wouldn't stop at anything. Cricket suggested a break twice, but every time he kept looking.

"Just think. If I was Sundew, where would I hide? Would I let myself get captured? Of course I wouldn't. I would never let a HiveWing guard touch me. Would I run away and hide? No, I don't back down from a fight. Would I go to the LeafWings for help? Possibly. That seems like the most rational solution." Blue said, snapping Cricket out of her daydream.

"How do we know she would even leave anything for us?" Cricket asked.

"She would never just leave us stranded here, with no help, HiveWings after us, and no idea what happened to our friends!" Blue exclaimed. "She's better than that!"

He's too loyal for his own good. He'd better beware of how far that loyalty can go. Or it might get us killed.

"If she was captured, what happens then?" Blue asked, knowing that Cricket would have some kind of backup plan. Which she did, of course.

"Well, we know Sundew's parents were waiting for her in the greenhouses at Queen Wasp's palace. They said they would wait until she returned with the Book of Clearsight." Cricket explained.

Blue nodded, listening intently. "What if we brought it with us, and offer it to them - since it contains nothing they can use against us - for their help in finding Sundew, Luna and Swordtail."

"Why didn't you come up with this earlier? It's genius!" Blue's eyes lit up with hope again. "Scratch our old plan, this one might actually work! Tiny problem though... just a small problem. Where is the Book Of Clearsight?"

Cricket froze. This was the one part of her master plan that she didn't think through. Sundew was holding the Book last before the HiveWings attacked. She could've dropped it somewhere. It could be missing forever! Or worse, the HiveWings might have their claws on it again!

"Oh... good question Blue." Cricket said, scratching her neck. With the Book of Clearsight gone, they had no chance of getting Belladonna and the other LeafWings on their side.

"Cricket if anyone can fix this, it's you. You have the most brilliant brain on the entire continent. Who was the one who broke me and Luna out of the Flamesilk Cave? Who was the one who rescued Sundew from the HiveWings at Queen Wasp's palace? Who was the one who saved me from the mind controlled army of HiveWings?" Blue took her talons in his as the daylight began to fade.

Cricket smiled at Blue's kind, encouraging words. The warmth of his talons wrapped around hers filled her with butterflies and a soft, tingly feeling inside.

Cricket took a step back, remembering that she shouldn't feel this way. Her talon stepped on something sharp that stuck, slightly buried, out of the sand. She bent down and picked up the odd, green bag . It was about the size of her talon. When she shook it, multiple objects jiggled around inside.

A smile cracked on Blue's face, "It's Sundew's! That's where she keeps her weird, magic, LeafWing stuff."

Cricket remembered the strange, poisonous flower that Sundew had used to knock out two HiveWing guards so they could sneak into

Wasp Hive. "Maybe she left it for us!"

Cricket emptied the contents onto the sand. There was another bag of purple sand, a funny-shaped orange maple leaf, a glow-stick, a scrap of scroll, three more flowers and a piece of coral. "If only this came with instructions," Blue said, twirling the glow stick around in his claws. "This looks like it's filled with flamesilk." Cricket nodded in agreement, noticing the orange swirl inside the transparent tube.

How did Sundew manage to find all this stuff?

"Didn't Sundew say that she found some of this washed up on the beach?" Cricket asked.

"I think so," Blue agreed. "How could someone just throw away this treasure? They all must've been useful to Sundew."

Cricket examined the scrap of paper as Blue waved the glow stick around in wonder. *Why would she leave us this?*

Suddenly a flicker appeared on the paper as the flamesilk passed it. "Wait Blue, hold that up again." Blue held the glow stick near the scrap of paper. Slowly, words etched into the paper under the flamesilk light. "Aha! Invisible ink!"

"Use the flowers to poison anyone, just don't inhale their aroma yourself," Blue read out the messy writing on the paper. *Maybe they do come with instructions. She must've written this in the event of an emergency.* "I found this piece of coral washed up on a beach. It's nothing like I've ever seen before, definitely not native to Pantala. Just whisper what you're looking for to it and it'll lead the way and find what you're looking for." Then he stopped.

"We can use this to find Sundew!" Cricket exclaimed.

Blue picked up the coral in wonder. "I wonder where this came from."

"That doesn't matter now. Quickly, ask it to find Sundew!"

Blue leaned in and whispered, "Sundew." His eyes darted around impatiently waiting for something epic to happen.

A moment passed.

Then suddenly, the coral yanked Blue forward and pointed up to a towering shape in the distance...

Wasp Hive.

A/N: Can you guess where the coral came from?

Magic (Blue)

[image]

Blue never really believed in magic. He had heard stories of it. A powerful force and power that dragons rarely possess. He had even heard a rumour that Clearsight was magic.

Blue had grown up listening to tales of the land across the sea, where there were new, different tribes. If they were out there, how different would they be to Pantala? Do they have crazy, psycho queens too? He had always wondered if they might possess magic.

Now he wondered where Sundew's coral could've come from. Maybe she had found it when she was going for a casual little stroll along the beach. But then again, if you're wanted and supposed to be extinct, it's kinda hard to go for a leisurely walk without being seen. The coral was a species he had never seen before, not to mention that it was like a portable tracking device. It was incredible. Did someone make it? Enchant it? Did it come from the other continent, (if it even exists)? Do they grow magic coral over there?

Blue tried to picture himself as a dragon from a land far across the sea. He would walk along the coast until he came across a pretty piece of coral. He probably wasn't supposed to be out all alone this late. Did his family worry about him? Will he come home to a loving brother or sister and parents? But he wanted to show them something awesome. He would enchant this coral so that he could find what ever he wished for. However, he would one day lose his magic possession, never to know that it would soon be so important to another dragon on the continent called Pantala.

Blue was sure that Cricket had the same questions. Her brain worked like that, in very mysterious ways. Kind of like his own brain. I mean, have you ever met someone else that imagines his/her as another dragon?

Ah, we have so much in common.

The coral pulled and tugged suddenly in Cricket's talons as they were flying towards Wasp Hive. It did this often along the way. At times, Cricket had to drag Blue across the ground, as he still wasn't used to his brand new wings and she wasn't strong enough to carry him. *Plus, that would be awkward.*

Once it was Blue's turn to carry the coral, he let it pull him along without turbulence for a while. Then suddenly, as if it had a mind of its own, the coral jerked, throwing him around in the air. Cricket steadied him in the sky, flapping her own wings for balance. The magic coral suddenly spun one hundred and eighty degrees around and took off in the complete opposite direction.

As it pulled them along, Blue glanced back at Queen Wasp's domain, slowly disappearing behind them.

"Either the coral is broken, or Sundew is on the move." Cricket pointed out. As her wings started to tire, she wrapped her claws around Blue's for support. Blue relaxed a little, knowing that he shouldn't.

They were heading to who-knows-where and Blue was dwelling on his stupid crush on Cricket! Suddenly Blue realised that this was the first time he had actually admitted his love for Cricket to himself. Their connection was stronger than anything Blue had ever felt before. He finally understood how Luna felt when she had been told countless times she couldn't be with Swordtail.

That didn't stop them.

"Hey, I'm not the best at Geograpy, but we're going north, right?" Cricket interrupted his thoughts. Blue nodded, looking into her worried eyes. He hadn't noticed until then how close they were. "Oh no!" She exclaimed, perking up slightly, but not letting go of Blue. "The coral is taking us to the Poison Jungle!"

Blue spotted specks of green in the distance. The first, actual trees he had seen in the wild.

But not in a good way.

It wasn't called the Poison Jungle for no reason.

"Wait. No dragon in history had gone in to the Poison Jungle and made it out alive! They disappear and never return, EVER! Why would the HiveWings be taking Sundew there?" Blue asked, beginning to freak out.

"I have a theory, but it's mad. Wild, even!" Cricket said, "If I told you, your cheeks would turn even more pale. And you'd probably ditch me here and now."

Blue took her word for it. He pressed on his cheeks, trying to bring back the colour into them.

The colour drained once again as they landed in front of the first tree Blue had ever seen. Cricket started up at in in wonder. They weren't quite like the few, forbidden pictures of trees that he had seen. They were more... twisted and evil.

Jungle.

The word gave him the heebie-jeebies.

A cold, spine-tingling breeze curled through the air, rustling the dazzling green leaves. It was eerie and quiet. Too quiet. This place seemed completely deserted, like no life lived beneath the endless canopy of green.

But somehow Blue knew that wasn't the case.

How was it that no HiveWing or LeafWing had returned from this jungle? How was it that there seemed to be no life living amongst the trees? Why would the HiveWings be so interested in bringing Sundew here, now, after all these years? Why would they bring a LeafWing to the only place there were trees?

Cricket reached out slowly with one claw to touch one of the strange leaves. Blue didn't lile the colour of them. They were green but a sort of sickening yellow-ish green.

Like... poison.

He was about to yank Cricket's talon back from the greenery but it was too late. She held back a scream and jerked it back immediately. She cradled her claw, stiffening up as if she didn't want to cause a racket in the silent jungle. Blue nearly shrieked as well once he had noticed the ghastly green infection that had spread along her claw.

As Cricket ran her good claw along the mouldy green poison, (which Blue thought was really stupid coming from such a brilliant dragon), her claw sort of... fell off. Cricket held up her only nine-clawed talons in shock. At least the infection was gone.

"Now we know why Queen Wasp was scared of sending dragons here." Cricket whispered. "But that can't be the only reason." Her last sentence sent chills down Blue's spine.

His thoughts were interrupted by a blood curdling scream from somewhere inside the jungle.

So much for no life.

Cricket stopped breathing beside Blue. She nudged him and signalled to be absolutely silent. He also noticed that the coral had stopped leading the way. It's like it had given up on finding Sundew... or it didn't want to go into the forest. Blue was with the coral, he didn't want to go anywhere near that scream.

But Cricket apparently did.

She wandered forward cautiously, avoiding stepping on any leaves. Blue followed reluctantly, feeling the need to protect her.

It was absolutely pitch black deep inside the Poison Jungle and ridiculously quiet given the ear-piercing scream five minutes ago! Blue made a mental note to never ever trust a piece of coral ever again.

Suddenly Cricket pulled him aside, behind a tree trunk. They were careful not to touch it.

She must've spotted or heard something. Cricket grabbed hold of Blue's talon again, which in any normal situation would've confused

him or made him blush tremendously. But he needed to know she was there.

Beyond their hiding spot, Blue saw what Cricket had seen.

A faint glow of flamesilk illuminated a small gathering of dark shapes. He noticed some familiar gold and black scales of HiveWings who held lanterns. He could hear their voices now, shouting threats and roaring. Two of them were dragging an unconscious dragon that stood out from all the other HiveWings. Blue breathed a small sigh of relief as he recognised the unconscious dragon as Sundew.

The HiveWings were roaring at the other dark shapes who were safely dwelling in the poisonous trees. The poison didn't seem to affect them. There were in fact at least a hundred of them, acting like the Posion Jungle was their home.

But what scared Blue most was the other shapes' wings. They had only two, not four. Their scales blended in with the colour of the trees.

It all made sense now.

Cricket, Blue and the HiveWings had found the secret home of the LeafWings.

The Truth (Cricket)

[image]

Cricket knew what was going to happen next.

The HiveWings were stupid for coming here. Queen Wasp mustn't have realised how many LeafWings there were. She was no doubt mind controlling her soldiers. No one would willingly come to the Poison Jungle. The four HiveWings were way outnumbered.

This was why no dragon had ever made it out of this place. The LeafWings had dealt with them before they could get anywhere and manage to expose their supposedly extinct tribe.

What does that say about our chances? Maybe we could negotiate with the LeafWings. After all, I did save Sundew's life.

Last week, Cricket firmly believed there were no LeafWings left on Pantala at all. But now she was standing behind a tree, watching tens of them murder four members of her own tribe. The LeafWings advanced and Cricket dared not to look. Queen Wasp left the HiveWing's bodies before she could've been hurt, leaving them confused and terrified as they took in their last breath.

Cricket squeezed Blue's talon for comfort. She felt sorry for the poor HiveWings. It wasn't their fault. They didn't deserve this. Even though she didn't even know them, they were still a part of her tribe.

She knew it was for the best though. Queen Wasp probably wouldn't come crawling back to the jungle after that. If the LeafWings were planning war against the HiveWings the only smart decision would be to let them come to her. Of course, the LeafWings were no match for Queen Wasp's HiveWing army.

"That's their plan," Cricket whispered to Blue. "The LeafWings want war against the Hive and SilkWings. That's why Belladonna wanted the Book of Clearsight. To take Queen Wasp's power away from her.

They think they've made the HiveWings weaker. But they're wrong, the Book was useless. We have to stop them before they go forth to their doom and wipe out what's left of themselves."

"They won't trust us." Blue whispered back, listening carefully as the LeafWings branched off into the forest, most likely searching for more HiveWings. "You're a HiveWing and I'm a SilkWing and a flamesilk. They'll kill us on the spot!"

"But Sundew will trust us." Cricket said, glancing back at where their unconscious friends was. A familiar looking LeafWing bent over Sundew, giving her some sort of herbal medicine.

Do we just go over and say hello? Should we just waltz in and tell them 'please don't kill us even though we're members of your enemy tribes?' Would it be better to wait until all the killing is out of their system? Will they be scared that we now know they are alive? I mean, how could they trust us? Especially me. My tribe wiped out hundreds of LeafWings and destroyed their trees just to make it even worse.

"We should listen for a little bit. Try and figure out their plan." Blue decided. *They aren't stupid. We're sitting ducks right here behind a tree. They'll find us eventually.*

Cricket should've thought of that sooner.

———————

Cricket had spent her entire life in Cicada Hive. She knew it like the palm of her own talon. She had memorised every nook and cranny and had all the best hiding spots and short cuts built into her brain like a GPS. Every corner she turned there would be a large poster ordered by Queen Wasp herself to over-remind everyone that she was the boss. Some of them would say things like 'Obey your all-powerfull and all-Wonderful Queen' or 'SilkWings and HiveWings unite!' or sometimes even 'HiveWings and SilkWings rule Pantala TOGETHER!' (She was certain that some SilkWings didn't agree with that last one.)

The posters were meant to strike fear into the reader or warn them of danger. Cricket's brain was basically hardwired for those

common poster slogans, but the ones that used to confuse her the most were the warnings regarding LeafWings:

'LeafWings are wild and cannot be contained', 'LeafWings will attack... BEWARE', 'Our home was once threatened by these ruthless killers' and 'Please report immediately if sighted!'

Queen Wasp had always assured her subjects that the LeafWings were totally extinct, so why would she put up posters about them? Was she worried they would threaten her throne? Did she know then that the LeafWings were still alive and fully ready to kill?

———————

But Cricket now knew that the LeafWings were the ones who were threatened.

They were defending themselves from the Queen who drove them out of their home and demolished their habitat all those years ago. They stayed low to protect what was left of their tribe in the only place they could survive. They were trying to stay hidden from the real enemy here.... Queen Wasp.

So you could imagine how the LeafWings reacted once they found a HiveWing and a SilkWing -members of the tribes who allied against them - hiding behind a tree, spying on them.

The Chrysalis (Io)

[image]

They were everywhere. HiveWings, HiveWings and more HiveWings.

Io had no idea where she was. She struggled in the chains that bound her to the rough, stone wall. She kicked and moaned until a tired voice beside her said "Don't bother. The chains are practically unbreakable."

The last thing she remembered was helping Blue to escape Cicada Hive after his sister had been exposed as a Flamesilk. He was probably still in danger right now. She had told him to run... anywhere. She had said to stop trusting the HiveWings and that he would never get his old life back. Hopefully he never got caught.

She was on a mission. That's right. To find the chrysalis. Pantala was in danger and the chrysalis would know what to do.

Until Io had been overrun by HiveWing guards.

How long was I unconscious? What happened to Swordtail? Where did they take Luna? Is Blue alright?

Once her eyes had adjusted to the darkness, Io could make out many shapes gathered in the same chamber. The place was crawling with HiveWings who wore the same agrivated expression. The guards' eyes weren't black and weird though so they weren't mind controlled at the moment. That thought only sent shivers down Io's spine. Queen Wasp's attention must've turned to something else.

They each bore a long spear that sparked on the very end with some sort of electricity.

The HiveWings circled the room, poking each dragon who was in chains. Once a guard's spear came into contact with Io's scales, a piercing, burning sensation remained. She wanted to scream but

couldn't through the uncomfortable strap that bound her jaw shut. She tried to examine where the spear had touched her but looked away as soon as she saw the black burn mark that had left an ugly, gaping hole in her purple scales.

"Good thing you finally woke up!" The same dragon from beside her said. Io turned her body to face the female dragon as another jolt of electricity pierced her scales.

The dragon was a HiveWing. Io was shocked to realise that the HiveWing was covered in black burn marks. She must've been here a while. Her eyes were dark with black circles from no sleep. She looked much too skinny for a HiveWing, like she hadn't been fed in a few weeks.

Io gestured with her chained talons to the HiveWing guards as if to say *what are they doing?*

"Torture." The HiveWing said. "They know we have information that is valuable to the Queen. Once you've been here long enough and been through enough pain they take off your mouth bind. Only one of the other dragons in here has spoken up. She said she had spotted a LeafWing or something. As if! They're extinct! Long gone. They let her go but she didn't even make it out the door. The poor HiveWing dropped dead before she saw freedom again."

Io glanced around the torture chamber as another spear burned her scales. There were mainly SilkWings, some who looked even worse than her HiveWing friend. Also a few HiveWings who must've done something really wrong or know something very important. None of them had given in yet which Io admired. She hoped she didn't have to stay here any longer. But she definitely wasn't going to spill her secrets.

"They want to know about my sister." The HiveWing said. "She disappeared from Cicada Hive two weeks ago after the whole Flamesilk scandal. I'm Katydid by the way."

Io froze. *I've been unconscious for two weeks.* Blue, Swordtail and Luna might as well be dead by now. *I was supposed to protect my little brother and his friends. I was going to find the chrysalis and stop*

this madness once and for all!

Katydid continued to fill Io in on what she had missed. "We get new prisoners here everyday. It's horrible and cruel. It makes me actually feel ashamed to be a HiveWing. I'm part of a tribe of murderers!" The nearest guard growled and poked Katydid extra hard that sparks flew everywhere. But she didn't even flinch. "Yeah that's right! I said it!"

It was a miracle that Katydid was still alive with that attitude. It was reassuring though to know, that dragons still had an opinion against Queen Wasp. It was everyone's fight after all.

"There was this one SilkWing, who was the first ever prisoner here. I was second. She was kind of old, but had a lot of secrets. She was so important that Queen Wasp didn't want her dead. The guards were extra careful with her but she never gave in." Katydid explained, her voice faltering with sadness. "Sh-she ended her own life so no one could ever find out what she knew. She told me to tell her dragonets that she was sorry and she loved them. It's quite a sad story but also inspiring." A tear slid down Katydid's cheeks.

Io understood how Katydid found it inspiring. It showed that the LeafWings *were* strong enough to overthrow the HiveWings. It showed that their whole tribe had been treated unfairly for a thousand years!

"Her name was Silverspot." Katydid said. "Her dragonets must be really special."

Io shivered.

She hoped Blue and Luna would never meet the same fate their mother did.

Sundew's Secret (Blue)

[image]

The next think they knew, Blue and Luna were tied up against a most-likely poisonous tree trunk surrounded by deadly LeafWings... again. The trunk felt painfully warm against his back. *Yep, definitely poisonous.*

Suddenly Blue felt a trickling sensation slide down his arm. He shivered and noticed that Cricket was bleeding from a scratch one of the LeafWings had given her. The blood slid down her dirty, golden scales and seeped into his. She gave him an apologetic look, scared to speak with the LeafWings' gaze on them at all times.

Blue expected them to pounce and rip each of the imposters to shreds. But the LeafWings just stood there, examining him and Cricket. In any other situation, Blue would find it extremely creepy but right now he was just glad he wasn't in pieces stuck between one of their sharp teeth. *The LeafWings probably haven't seen a SilkWing for a very long time... since the tree wars. I'm like an exquisite, priceless piece of artwork to them.*

Blue felt Cricket ruffle her wings and blushed slightly at the contact. Were the LeafWings gawking at how embarrassed Blue probably looked right now being tied so close to Cricket?

Belladonna stepped forward, pushing past the rest of her tribe, reeking of authority. Blue guessed she must have a special position in the underdeveloped tribe.

Belladonna sneered, "Are you sure you can trust these dragons my daughter?"

"They saved my life Mother. I am extremely grateful." Sundew's voice came from behind Blue. As Blue turned to look for his friend, suddenly the ropes loosened and he and Cricket were free. Sundew tossed the cut ropes aside and glanced at Blue with a straight face. A proud glint I her eyes didn't go unnoticed though. He guessed it

was her way of thanking him. Maybe she didn't know how to smile? Sundew had dark circles around her eyes and her green and brown scales looked paler and awfully dry. Blue had forgotten she had been held hostage for at least a week. He could only imagine what Queen Wasp had done to his friend.

He was relieved to be free from the searing, burning pain from the poison tree. Blue glanced at Cricket who was rubbing her sore arm and he blushed deeper. She looked up at him from the corner of her glasses and smiled, mouthing the words 'I'll be fine.'

"Ahem HiveWing! SilkWing!" Belladonna snapped. "There's someone who would like to meet you. Then we can discuss what you saw in the Book of Clearsight." She swept away regally, earning intimidated looks from her tribe.

Blue froze. How would they react when he told them the Book of Clearsight was useless? More importantly, who was this someone they needed to meet. Another crazy, deranged LeafWing? Full respect to them, but the LeafWings are caught up in the middle of another continent-ending war. There comes a time when you need to slow down and make some friends.

Cricket shuffled over to Blue and whispered, "How did a bunch of dragonets like us end up responsible for the fate of their entire continent?"

Blue laughed. "We're either doing something very right or something very wrong."

"Because I enjoy being Queen Wasp's worst nightmare you know?" Cricket smiled.

"We were both born to be hazards." Blue said . "I'm a fugitive flamesilk and you're my sidekick who can resist mind control."

"Hey! I'm pretty sure *you're* the sidekick! I am the heroine!" Cricket flared her wings.

"Who said any of youse were the hero?" Sundew said scaring the life out of Blue. The LeafWings blended in so well to the rest of the

jungle that he had a hard time seeing them coming. "I just saved your skin. I would've gladly had you killed if I didn't..."

"Like us?" Blue asked.

"*Respect* you." Sundew said. "I don't do feelings."

Cricket giggled histerically making Blue's cheeks heat up again for some reason. The lack of sleep was finally getting to him.

"What's taking her so long?" Blue asked, noticing that Belladonna had been gone a while. The other hundred LeafWings were standing around holding their breaths in anticipation.

Sundew's expression changed. "The Queen rarely makes a public appearance. She likes to keep her subjects waiting. It... uh builds up tension and theatrics."

"Queen? Wh-"

Sundew cut him off. Silence fell around the jungle just like when Blue and Cricket first arrived. The morale was buzzing with fear and excitement. Sundew along with the rest of the LeafWings bowed down and formed a path that lead to their guests.

Cricket gasped and wrapped her talons around Blue's arms, holding him close. Belladonna swept gracefully back down the path looking less regal. Everyone's eyes turned to the new dragon who waltzed slowly behind Sundew's mother.

She was the biggest LeafWing Blue had ever seen. Probably the biggest *dragon* he had ever seen.

The Queen's entire body was covered in horrific scars from years of pain in battle. Her face was so aged that Blue started to believe she could've been Clearsight's best mate. He had seen elderly dragons before, but the LeafWing Queen looked at least over a hundred. Possibly even older. Her wide grey eyes stared Blue and Cricket down like they were no more than an irritating fly to her.

"Blue, Cricket. This is Queen Sequoia. Our longest-serving Queen." Belladonna announced with a hint of pride in her voice.

Blue had seen numerous murals and mosaic paintings of Queen Sequoia but they didn't even begin to shine a full light on the queen's jaw-dropping presence.

"B-but that's not possible. Queen Sequoia ruled over seventy years ago. She was rumoured to have died in the tree wars." Cricket said, her voice shaking.

"And so were the rest of these LeafWings. Were they not?" Queen Sequoia's voice was raspy and soft but full of patience. Blue tried to stop his jaw from falling off it was gaping so wide. The old queen's powerful aura left him in absolute awe. "But look around you young HiveWing. Anything is possible." She lifted her chin, regarding Cricket's grasp on Blue's arm. Cricket let go awkwardly and looked down at her claws.

Sequoia stepped forward closer and closer to her guests. "I heard you found the Book." She smiled coyly. "Come on now, spill me it's secrets."

"We would... if there were any." Cricket said matter-of-factly. "The Book of Clearsight was full of wisdom, I must admit. But Clearsight's last prediction was for over two hundred years ago. Queen Wasp only used to inflict fear. When really, it showed her no power."

The Queen pondered on this for a long moment. "That old bat can't help herself!" Blue was actually relieved that Sequoia believed them... but the news only made her more mad. "So this means that the HiveWings are powerless after all! This is the perfect time for our rebellion!"

Cricket stiffened. "Wait! Please you can't start a war!"

"Hmmm why not?" Queen Sequoia asked glaring at Cricket. *I don't think this is the right time Cricket! She won't be easily persuaded!*

"Because this is all Queen Wasp's doing! The SilkWings have nothing to do with it! Do you really want any more precious LeafWing blood lost? If there was any time you were in perilous danger, it's now!"

"And what about the HiveWings?" Sequoia inquired, her voice still calm and soft. "They use the SilkWings for their own benefit! They've been in control too long. They cut down all our trees and left us to go half-extinct! The SilkWings are constantly abused and practically in slavery!"

Cricket had no words. Blue found that he actually agreed with every word and point Queen Sequoia had argued. And he knew Cricket did too. Everything Io had said before she had escaped were beginning to make sense every step of their quest. *"It's time to stop trusting them Blue! The HiveWings are your real enemies!"*

Suddenly a young LeafWing stepped forward. "My Queen, If I may... well since these-uh imposters have nothing of importance to share with us *and* they have no proof of the Book's disappointment, I believe we should kill them. After all, they know all our secrets and where we are hidden. That information isn't safe with anyone." He said. "Even if my *dear* sister trusts them."

He looked at Sundew and smirked. She growled and looked as if she was about to claw his arrogant face off.

Blue realised that Sundew had never mentioned she had any siblings. They obviously had a much different relationship than his and Luna's. If he had a brother like *that,* Blue would want to keep it a secret too.

"Now now Snakeroot let's not jump into action." Queen Sequoia purred. Snakeroot stepped back shyly. "Although I don't mind the idea... these fugitives are still useful. We're all on the same side here aren't we?"

Blue nodded slowly.

Suddenly, commotion erupted from somewhere deep in the crowd behind the Queen. The LeafWings made way as one of their own limped forward. He had sustained a serious cut on his leg, most likely from a dragon's claw. It was still fresh.

He looked exhausted like he had just been in a fight. Cricket looked at Blue nervously and he could tell that she too, had a bad feeling

about this.

The tribe started whispering as he pushed and shoved through them towards the Queen. Blue's heart stopped once he caught a glimpse of what the LeafWing was dragging behind him.

"Found him up north on the shore. Wasn't lookin' too good. Must've gotten lost or caught up in that storm. Quite a nasty fella aye!"

He threw an unconscious dragon before the Queen. It's scales were multicoloured but it was hard to tell through all the mud and grime the poor dragon was covered in.

"Ooh another fugitive! How exciting! This one is definitely a SilkWing!" Queen Sequoia bent down and squeezed the unconscious dragon's cheeks until his eyes fluttered open.

Blue recognised those eyes. He can't believe he didn't notice it before. Who else would be brave enough to fight a LeafWing?

It was Swordtail.

Trust (Swordtail)

[image]

A/N: You may be wondering why updates are coming in so quickly. Well, I am super proud of this story and have no motivation right now to write more of the others. Sorry. Also I want to finish this before The Hive Queen comes out.

Enjoy.

2 months ago...

"Swordtail you were asked at the East bridge twenty minutes ago!" Grasshopper huffed. Swordtail rolled his eyes behind his boss's back. He *hated* working for the construction crew. He inched over to the next intersection and filled it with bright, white silk that shot from his wrists.

"They need me here!" Swordtail spat at the HiveWing, using the same annoying, I-rule-the-world attitude that he had come to hate. "Plus I haven't seen you switch your butt into gear at all this past hour." He only muttered that last part.

"Look kiddo, I know you didn't want to end up here, but you'd better start behaving or you'll become more than just my problem. I understand you don't like following rules but you're gonna have to suck it up before I have the Queen throw you out onto the streets."

Understand? HiveWings will never understand! "Firstly I am not a 'kiddo'." Swordtail complained, flaring his full-grown, beautiful wings. "And I'm not scared of that old bat!"

"You take that back SilkWing! She is your queen!" Grasshopper

yelled, but Swordtail was already gone, chuckling a little to himself. "Hey! YOUR SHIFT ISN'T OVER YET! You arrogant little-"

"What are you gonna do? Stick me in Misbehaver's Way, again!" Swordtail mumbled to himself as he flew through Cicada Hive as fast as lightning. His lazy boss wouldn't dare follow him. *I don't think he's even spread his wings in the past hundred years!*

HiveWings gawked up at him as he flew past but Swordtail brushed it off. He raced through corridors and accidentally (or really not so accidentally) ripped down a warning poster that said something like 'Remember... Queen Wasp is your saviour!' Bah, it was the funniest thing he had ever heard.

He needed someone right now who he could rant about the HiveWings with, and who wouldn't report him or send him back to the Special-Needs healers - and trust me, he had ended up there on way too many occasions.

"Swordtail aren't you supposed to be at work?" Luna smiled, leaning against her front door. Blue was inside, fast asleep on one of their silk beds. Silverspot and Burnet must've been out. Swordtail used to always find it weird that they had both raised Luna and Blue together once Admiral had disappeared. *Well it makes their children happy*.

"Well. I might've ran away again..." Swordtail said, stepping into Luna's house. Luna threw him a look that might've said 'why does my boyfriend have to be such a trouble maker?' "Grasshopper ordered me to help out on the East Silk Bridge but I refused and complained. Then I told him I hated Queen Wasp and legged it."

Luna slapped him playfully. She reached up and pulled a bit of treestuff from his horns.

"You shouldn't talk like that Swordtail." Blue mumbled, his eyes still closed.

Luna sighed and whispered so her brother was out of earshot, "He doesn't understand. None of the other SilkWings do! We're pushed around and abused on a daily basis and they sit around and take it

without complaint."

"He will someday. They *all* will." Swordtail said with a hint of pride. He held Luna's talon, tilting her wrist up so they could clearly see the S and A marked into her scales(Silverspot and Admiral), her identification that the HiveWings used to put the SilkWings to work. He compared it with his which he had smudged and burnt off months ago. Swordtail always hated the sight of it. Those two initials that every SilkWing had - but not a single HiveWing - were a sign that they were chained and owned by the Queen.

That mark made Swordtail feel like all of his freedom had been sucked out of him.

Burnet arrived back from her visit to the school, where she worked, and gasped when she saw Swordtail's non-existent identification. "Why do you have to be so rebellious my dear Swordtail?"

Swordtail shrugged, "I can't help it."

Luna smiled at her stepmother as Burnet crouched beside Blue who had crashed in the hammock once again.

"How long now Luna?" Burnet asked.

"Two months! Until I have fabulous wings and gorgeous silk! I'll finally be able to fly and see what it's like to be and adult SilkWing!" Luna cried excitedly.

Trust me it's not that great, Swordtail thought.

"Hey Burnet, where's Mom? She didn't get home last night." Luna's question seemed to startle Burnet.

"Oh. She uh was called to Wasp Hive. The Queen wanted to speak with her at once." She said, looking slightly flustered.

"Why?"

"Umm family business." Burnet answered, stroking Blue's wings in a motherly kind of way.

From the confused look on Luna's face, Swordtail could tell it was more than just 'family business.'

Out of the Blue (Cricket)... or not.

[image]

A/N: I just wanna say... isn't it weird that the chapter with THE MOST AWESOMEST BLICKET FLUFF EVER has the least votes?

Thankyou all for reading this story! I've had so much fun writing it so far but I'm sorry to say that this chapter won't involve much Blue x Cricket... just kidding!

Please enjoy.

"L-Luna." Swordtail choked, keeping his eyes on Blue. "Where i-is she?"

Blue shrugged his shoulders sympathetically. *I can't imagine losing someone I love,* Cricket glanced at Blue with his worried, wide eyes and gorgeous smile. *He must be worried sick! Do you ever get over that feeling of 'I could've done something to save her,' or 'she's just around the corner. She's just joking around. Haha it's not funny anymore Luna. Luna? LUNA!?'*

You shouldn't think like that Cricket. We don't know what happened to Luna...

"Ranger, let the SilkWing go." Queen Sequoia told the dragon who had found Swordtail. "It seems he is a friend of yours Blue and Cricket?" Ranger sneered but did as his queen wished.

Cricket shivered as the queen spoke her name for the first time. It sounded unnatural. *I've probably just gotten used to being called 'HiveWing!'* "Yes your highness."

Swordtail scrambled to his feet and growled defensively at the small tribe of LeafWings. "Wow." He breathed. "Queen Wasp didn't do a very good job of making you guys extinct." Cricket couldn't help but

smile when Blue laughed. It was good to see a familiar face again.

"And next time she won't even come close." Sundew's father, Hemlock, spoke up. Cricket recognised him from the green house at Wasp Hive. The LeafWings cheered. Cricket noticed Snakeroot eyeing his sister and her friends off from a distance with the same angry expression. It seemed like his face was permanently stuck that way. Maybe it ran in the family?

Swordtail skipped over to Blue and Cricket looking oddly happy considering he had just been beaten up. "Huh. The fierce and glorious Sundew hasn't changed a bit!" he assumed. Sundew smirked but held her chin up a little higher. Cricket noticed that their LeafWing friend really liked praise.

"You look ready to crush some HiveWing skulls!" Blue said as Swordtail shook out his wings and wouldn't stand still. Cricket winced at his comment. Blue noticed this and had a guilty look on his face.

"No no no I didn't mean it like that! We won't crush any HiveWing skulls-"

"Awww!" Swordtail cut in. "Uh no offence Cricket." Cricket smiled, scratching at the deep cut she had earned from a LeafWing before.

"Only Queen Wasp's!" Sundew finished for Blue. "And maybe some of her dastardly sisters too." Swordtail sneered at the mention of the other members of the royal family. *I guess I never fully understood how much power Queen Wasp actually held,* Cricket thought. She scratched at her arm again.

She closely examined the cut. It was starting to really irritate her now. She couldn't stop scratching at it. It was painfully itchy. She brushed her claws against it, almost forgetting that she was missing one claw. Cricket was actually not surprised to realise that there was a sort of green puss oozing from the bloody wound. *Gosh, this poison hell-hole is really starting to get on my nerves!*

Blue, Sundew and Swordtail were still talking but Cricket couldn't focus on their words. Their sentences blurred together and their

voices sounded slurred and warped. Her vision all of a sudden started to fade into a blur.

She grasped Blue's arm for support, whispering the words, "I don't feel too good." Her knees buckled and Cricket felt like a new born dragonet because her legs had forgotten how to stand. The last thing she saw was Blue's brave, concerned face as she blacked out.

Cricket knew she should wake up. Waking up was a really good idea. But she was perfectly relaxed right where she was lying. The cool, night breeze blew against her golden scales.

The only thing that urged her to open her eyes was the sound of Blue's voice. Her eyes fluttered open and Cricket reached for her glasses which were carefully placed beside her. Blue sat in the corner of their cave. It was dim and sticky inside but Cricket could still see the stars from a gaping hole in the top right corner.

"It's a burrow." Blue said calmly. "I don't want to know *what* made it, but Queen Sequoia said you'd want some privacy. We should feel honoured apparently. Right above us is the 'Ancient tree.' Sundew said it's the oldest living thing on Pantala, and it's at the northern-most point of the continent. The beach is right on our doorstep. Swordtail's out there kicking up sand and talking battle with Belladonna. You've been out for an hour."

Cricket smiled. *At least I got some sleep.* Then she spotted her cut. It had been bandaged over with some kind of herbal stuff. "What happened?"

"Poison." Blue said. He paused like he wanted to say something else, then got to his feet and sat down beside Cricket. "I was really worried. Please don't pull a stunt like that ever again!"

"Now you know how I feel! You were worried for an hour but I was freaking myself out for five whole days!" Cricket laughed.

"Well I'm *still* worried."

"About Luna?"

"Yeah... and... I don't want anything to happen to you Cricket." Blue said, looking her straight in the eyes. Her insides flipped around and around until she felt like she was going to throw up collapse again. "I was just thinking of what could happen if Queen Wasp was overthrown."

"We'd be free." Cricket breathed.

"Before my sister's Metamorphosis, we were out and about doing her most favourite things before... before our lives changed forever. I didn't realise it then, but in five days I would never be free." Blue explained sadly. "I had grown up believing that HiveWings and SilkWings could work together harmoniously. And I still do."

"So do I." Cricket said softly. *Just look at you and me.*

"There was this really annoying HiveWing guard named Hawker. Luna hated him, but sometimes he was unnaturally nice to us. I guess now, that he felt sorry for us." Blue explained. "I used to tease Luna and say that he liked her. I remember she said something sarcastic like 'ooooo maybe we'll have a *forbidden love!*'"

Cricket's heart sank. Blue started to blush uncontrollably.

"Something you want to say to me Blue?" Cricket smiled.

"It didn't mean anything to me then, but I think it does now." Blue suddenly became very interested in his talons, avoiding Cricket's gaze.

A thousand questions swirled through her mind. A rush of feelings flurried in her stomach.

Love, fear, confusion, worry, happiness, frustration... but mainly love...

"Well I've already broken enough rules." Cricket mumbled softly before she closed the gap between her and Blue. When she kissed him, she felt her heart twang and she didn't know what to think... only what to feel. This feeling that they both shared was magical.

"I'm gonna have to start calling you my sister-in-law Cricket!" A

voice called from outside their burrow. Once they broke apart, Cricket glared at Swordtail who was smiling like it was Christmas.

"That's if we find Luna." Blue said, regaining himself.

"Oh, we will!"

Element of Surprise (Blue)

[image]

A/N: It has been an absolute pleasure to write this story for you guys! Thanks for the positivity and feedback. It means so much to me.

Yes, this is the last chapter.

But I hope y'all enjoyed every bit of it!

Two weeks ago, Blue would never have dared to even *smile* at a HiveWing authority, and now he was planning to go to war against them. Just like Swordtail once said, Metamorphosis really can change a dragon.

It may sound stupid, probably even impossible. How can at least fifty or so LeafWings, two SilkWings and a HiveWing to overthrow an entire kingdom?

"We have to be on alert. Always!" Queen Sequoia spoke in front of the tribe. "Queen Wasp wants a challenge, so we'll give her a challenge!" The Ancient Tree towered over them, providing comforting shade. Blue could see the beautiful beach ahead of him. The sight filled him with hope.

"Yeah!" Sundew cried.

Blue used to stare at paintings of the LeafWing queen and wonder why she would lead her whole tribe into a battle she couldn't win.

But that's the thing about LeafWings. They don't use their head. They don't weigh up the pros and cons. They don't worry about the consequences. They do what they *know* is right.

I could say the same about Cricket and I, Blue thought, smiling at his partner in crime.

"What will happen after? Like, *if* we, I mean *when* we overthrow

Queen Wasp?" Cricket asked.

Queen Sequoia paused. "Life on Pantala will return to how it should be. The whole world will know not to mess with the LeafWings. The SilkWings will have their own equal rights. The HiveWings will bow to a better Queen. All I want, is for Pantala to return to its Glory Days, like it was before the tree wars."

"What a wonderful world." Cricket smiled as Swordtail gazed out at the ocean, obviously wondering about Luna.

"But we can't do it alone." Blue said, lacing his claws around Cricket's.

"The Chrysalis will help!" Swordtail spoke up, flicking his royal-blue tail.

Not the Chrysalis again! How come everyone knows about it except me?

"What's the Chrysalis?" Sundew asked, digging her talons into the sand.

"They're a movement of SilkWings who are working to overthrow the HiveWings." Swordtail explained with a hint of pride. "This is the kind of thing they're prepared for."

"We need something more; something Queen Wasp isn't expecting. Something she hasn't seen before." Belladonna hissed. "Like an element of surprise."

The LeafWings pondered this. Queen Sequoia opened her mouth to share something but Sundew tapped her shoulder. Blue took note of her odd, wary expression. "Uh your majesty, I think we may have visitors."

Sundew pointed out to the ocean. Blue's heart stopped for a moment. Swordtail flared his wings in anticipation. Cricket gasped.

Three shapes loomed over the water. Their wings flapped vigorously like they had been flying non stop for weeks. They came closer and closer to the shore with every wing stroke. Behind the three leading dragons, there were other flying shapes of various

shapes and colours.

Blue could see the three dragons now as they landed on shore and walked cautiously towards them. The first one Blue recognised immediately.

Swordtail ran towards Luna and swept her into his arms with happiness. Blue was delighted to see her okay.

The other two dragons were clearly in shock.

They both only had one pair of wings, but they weren't LeafWings. The larger one had pale, sandy-yellow scales and a sleek, black barb on the end of his tail like a scorpion.

The smaller one stopped in front of Blue, examining him like he was a zoo animal. She had midnight black scales with starry patterns under her magnificent wings. She smiled pearly white teeth and Blue noticed two silver teardrop scales by her dark green eyes. By the way she looked at him, it was like she knew him already; like she was listening to a little voice that told her all about him and his home.

The black dragon held out her talon and Blue reluctantly shook it. She smiled sweetly. "Hi, I'm Moonwatcher and this is Qibli." Her voice was soft and quiet, like she was nervous. "We're from Pyrrhia, the land across the sea."

Announcement !!

Yes, this story was finished a while ago.

But recently I've been receiving some extremely annoying comments about the plot and characters like "this isn't right!" or "this doesn't make sense"

Please keep in mind, this was written at the end of *2018* waaay before book 12 and 13 were released. How was I supposed to know that Katydid was Cricket's mom?

Now that that's out of the way... what I really wanted to tell you all is that I've stated a new Blicket story! It's a high school human AU called Secrets of The Hive. You can find it under my profile if you're interested.

Okay... and thanks for almost 10k reads and the incredible amount of support you've given this story!